

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 5 is requested to be canceled.

Claim 1 is currently being amended.

Claims 19-21 are new.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-4 and 6-21 (20 claims) are now pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 5, 9, and 16 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 5. Consequently, claim 1 and its dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants have added new claim 20, which includes the limitations of claim 1 (before this amendment) and allowable claim 9 (including intervening claim 6). Consequently, claim 20 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants have added new claim 21, which includes the limitations of claim 1 (before this amendment) and allowable claim 16. Consequently, claim 21 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Support for these claims can be found, at least, in allowed original claim 5, paragraphs 0013 and 0038 and Fig. 3 of the specification as originally filed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office rejected claims 1, 2, 11-14, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent App. No. 2002/0140850 (Toste) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,527,000 (Randmae). The Office also rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-15 and 17 under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,525,766 (Ikoma) in view of Randmae. The Office also rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikoma in view of Randmae and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,851,442 (Spector).

In view of the amendment of independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5, claim 1 is believed to be patentable.

Previously presented dependent claims 2-4 and 6-18, which depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, are also patentable. See 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶4.

New dependent claim 19 is patentable, as it depends from claim 1. See 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶4.

New independent claims 20 and 21, which include the features of allowable claims 9 and 16, respectively, are believed to be patentable.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 21, 2007

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5483
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Andrew E. Rawlins
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,702